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Jones Honored By Organization

By VIRGIE W. MURRAY

The pastor of Peoples Temple of the Disciples of Christ, James V. Jones, was recently named one of the 100 most outstanding clergymen in the nation by Religion In American Life, an inter-faith organization.

Jones was honored for his guidance and inspiration in establishing the many humanitarian programs and facilities in Peoples Temple that attempt to meet every type of human need.

Peoples Temple is scattered over California, with members in many cities, traveling in the church's fleet of Greyhound type buses to worship services in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and the church in Redwood Valley.

A native of Indiana, Pastor Jones has been in California for 10 years. In that decade, Peoples Temple has grown from a meeting place in the garage of his home to 10,500 members in the three congregations.

RESPONDS

This ministry is known for responding to both public and private appeals for assistance, giving support to the local school system and law enforcement. The Temple has rehabilitated over 175 young people from hard-line drug habits and educated many local residents through its college program.

Pastor Jones and Peoples Temple have been viewed by many people. Dr. John Moore, District Superintendent of the United Methodist Church said, "Peoples Temple is a caring community of people of all races and classes. They bear the mark of compassion and justice — compassion for the hungry and jobless, lonely and disturbed, and also for the earth and her offspring."

INJUSTICE

Michael Prokes, former TV News Bureau Chief, who resigned his post to join Peoples Temple, stated, "Pastor Jones manifests the life of Christ by working day and night to stand courageously against all forms of injustice, to relieve human suffering of every kind, and to establish brotherhood among peoples of all different backgrounds."

The Rev. Gerald McHarg, assoc. regional pastor, Christian Churches. Southern California, commented, "I have the impression the congregation is ready, willing, and able to assist any human being with almost any problem. One gets the impression of being in the midst of the human race at its best: a community of people whose primary concern is to love and to serve."

CONGRESS

A legislator stated on the floor of Congress, "Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Rev. James Jones and every member of his congregation for this outstanding demonstration of their commitment to the principles on which this country was founded."

The Rev. Karl Irvin Jr., regional minister-president, The Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada, Disciples of Christ, said "Pastor Jones has a great organizational ability. He has been largely responsible for the establishment of a large congregation of everyday human beings from all walks of life, binding them together in a truly extraordinary commitment to human service. The ministries of this pastor and his congregation are staggering in scope and effectiveness."

SERVES NEEDY

Besides serving the needs of the people in California, Peoples Temple also serves needy in South America. They have acquired a large ocean-going boat which can hold 50 tons of supplies and will be used to transport food produced in the church's agricultural mission to critical hunger regions of the world.

While awaiting the next harvest, the boat is being used to take sick people to hospitals, and delivering food, clothing and other supplies where they are needed by people living in remote areas of South America.